

## SOME MEMORIES AND IMPRESSIONS OF MY ASSOCIATION WITH VASCO M. TANNER

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I have been an acquaintance, a student, and an admirer of Dr. Vasco M. Tanner for the past forty-eight years. I was a student of his at Dixie College in the fall of 1921 and later lived for a time as his next-door neighbor.

I returned to Dixie College after four years out of high school and had the privilege of taking classes from Dr. Tanner in geology, botany and other biological sciences. From him I received stimulus to direct my studies in the sciences of the great outdoors. After two years at Dixie, I graduated with an Associate of Science degree. I then took my family to the deserts of California to earn money for further college work.

It was in the summer of 1925 that Dr. Tanner again came into my life. He had just received his doctorate from Stanford and he was en route to Brigham Young University to become head of the Department of Zoology and Entomology. He and his family called to see me. It was at this time that he invited me to come to the Y as his assistant. I did so in September 1925.

When I arrived, I found Dr. Tanner already established and mixed up in the dust and disarray of many years' accumulation and neglect. His office, assigned classroom, and laboratory space were on the second floor of the old main building, overlooking the fountain on the front lawn. This was the start of a new department of zoology and entomology at BYU.

As I remember, this beginning was in unequipped, poorly arranged, and to some extent unused office and classroom space. The equipment and laboratory space were in a poor state of repair and were dusty, dirty, and mostly unused. I well remember that when I arrived, Dr. Tanner was busily engaged in collecting natural history specimens and other items that were scattered throughout the various departments on campus. Such zoological and entomological specimens at the Y at this time were more or less of the "museum" type and ill prepared for scientific study. They were in a poor state of preservation and very much neglected.

I was immediately assigned to the task of salvaging as much of the specimen material as could be usable again and disposing of the dusty, dry, unusable balance.

Laboratories and classrooms were developed; and with the energy and foresight provided by Dr. Tanner, they served very well for the beginning of a new department.

From this meager beginning Dr. Tanner soon added equipment and personnel to carry on the work of the department. He soon had

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about him a fair-sized group of students who were eager to pursue studies in the sciences of the great outdoors. Those whom I remember were C. Lynn Hayward, Clarence Cottam, Lynn Alleman, Ray Van Leeuwen, Bliss Finlinson, George Marler, Claudius Brown, and D Elden Beck.

I left my duties with Dr. Tanner during the summer of 1926 to add further to my material needs. During that summer I collected insect specimens for my personal collection and that of the University. Upon my return in the fall, I found things really humming. Laboratories and classrooms had been remodeled and rearranged, greatly changing the appearance of things from the previous winter. In addition, another assistant had been added, Clarence Cottam.

During each of the two winters, 1925-26 and 1926-27, I conducted laboratory classes in zoology. I also prepared new zoological specimens, pinned new insects, and learned to prepare mounts of small animal specimens.

I graduated in the spring of 1927. I received an appointment with the help of Dr. Tanner, as district agricultural inspector in southern Utah. My district consisted of Washington, Iron, Kane, Garfield, Beaver, and Millard counties, with headquarters at Cedar City. In this large area I had ample opportunity to collect insects and small animal specimens. In the following eight years I collected and mounted eighty-seven specimens of rodents of southern Utah. During this period Dr. Tanner occasionally called on me while on some of his field trips and gave me information and help in this work. Through contacts made by Dr. Tanner, Dr. E. Raymond Hall of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, called to see me and offered to take my collection with him to be identified. All specimens were identified by Dr. Grinnell and were returned to me, except for two specimens which had not been collected before in this area. I occasionally displayed and discussed my collection at schools and other places where knowledge of it would be beneficial.

I moved to Logan in 1938 and finding it difficult to properly care for my specimens, I wrote to Dr. Tanner and offered them to Brigham Young University. On one of his visits to Logan, Dr. Tanner picked them up and added them to the collection of rodents at BYU.

Dr. Tanner has always occupied a spot foremost in my regard for my fellowman. As I look back on my association with him, I remember him as one having a firm purpose in life from which he never seemed to deviate. His day's work was always programmed ahead so that one could depend on what he would be doing at a given time. As I have followed his later accomplishments, this indeed has been the pattern of his life.

As one of the thousands who have received stimulus and guidance from Dr. Tanner, I voice my deep appreciation for what he has done for me. Through his direction and guidance I have gained a deeper appreciation and understanding of those things about me which have added to my full enjoyment of life.